



# Congratulations

Welcome to Grand Traverse County's thirteen new CASA volunteers. The Honorable Melanie D. Stanton swore in the new volunteers at a ceremony that took place on Wednesday, May 25th, 2016. Thank you fellow CASA Volunteer, Ben Munger for your words of wisdom and support.

Before being sworn in, all CASA's were required to complete a 30+ hour training curriculum. Classes included the study of various topics; policy, procedure, law, substance abuse, domestic violence, communicating with children and families, testifying in court, diversity, and report writing. Thank you to all the volunteer facilitators from various agencies and offices in the area, for your time and dedication to CASA.

***Welcome: Jane Becker, Victor Dinsmoore, Lisa Haworth, Brittany Hess, David Lloyd, Ann McPhail, Susan Nanasi, Patricia Rose, Diane Scrivo, Matthew Service, Karen Simpson, Susan Wilgus, and Tori Young.***



## Program Updates ~ Summer 2016

**New Vision Academy** is off to an excellent start. The students have enjoyed 6 days of classes for the June session. Opening up with staff from Third Level as an ice breaker, meeting a K-9 police dog and his handler, Trooper Kris Makowski, making knot pillows, learning CPR, and a variety of other experiences. Thank you to the Education Coordinator of the Boardman River Nature Center, Taryn Carew, for the scholarship opportunity. New Vision students were able to take part in this exciting field trip thanks to the full scholarship that was awarded to cover the cost.

Many thanks to volunteer **Darcy Schlitt** and interns, **Brittany and Tori** for all their hard work and dedication to this program, in its 9th year. Also, many more thanks to those who have donated supplies to our craft project sessions for New Vision; Amy Staffan of Art & Soul Gallery, Stacey McCalpin, Danielle Gore and Patti Rose.

**A.R.T. Facilitator Training**– Due to scheduling conflicts with court staff, the ART training has been scheduled for July 13th and 14th, changed from its original dates in June. If you're interested in being a part of this important, new program being offered to youth on probation, please contact Lindsey-there is still space in the class for you to attend. Training will be held in the multi-purpose room from 9:00-4:00 each day. ART stands for 'Aggression Replacement Training', a curriculum that takes place over a 10-week period to alleviate the behaviors of aggression in communication, which leads to youth being removed from home and placed in residential facilities.

### July and August Birthdays

Elliot Morrison	Jane Vitkus
Etta Rajkovich	Nancy Giles
Ruth Bay	Ed Thoma
Don Kuehlhorn	Susan Bender
Barbara Disborough	Susan Pahl
Kathy Walsh-Sinnard	Lori Metcalf
Kristen Girard	Kristyn Brendel
Wendy Cuneapen	Mary Wayne
Michael Robold	
Laura Mains	
Matt Bertrand	
Karen Grant	
Matt Maratea	



Volunteer Services and Probate Court have been working on the details of volunteers once again acting as guardians for incapacitated individuals. The clients who will qualify for a volunteer guardian will reside in a nursing or AFC home and have no family members who are able to act as guardian. They will have limited mobility, and require minimal supervision outside of the care they're receiving through their residence.

If being a guardian is a role that you have an interest in, please contact Lindsey for further information. This is a much needed role in our community as many do not have anyone in their life to act in this capacity.





Learning Partners would like to thank the Old Towne Playhouse, Children's Theatre Actors and all staff, for the invitation to the dress rehearsal of the *Wizard of Oz* on June 9th. Several Learning Partner students and their volunteers were able to enjoy the very well-done performance.

No monthly meeting in August for volunteers. However, the first meeting for the school year is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 13th** at 4:00 p.m.

Learning Partners wrapped up their 2016 Swim Program with a group of Learning Partner students who are now more prepared to enjoy all the lakes and rivers their hometown has to offer. Many thanks to WSI certified instructor, **Allie Shumate** for volunteering her time to teach these Swim and Water Safety lessons.



Remember we will not have a monthly meeting for July. Enjoy all the sun and fun with your friends and family.

For the August monthly meeting we will welcome **Janet Kronk**, Family Services Case Manager for Family Court. Janet will be presenting on Tuesday, August 16th at 4:00 p.m. on how petitions for neglect and abuse hearings are processed, how hearings are scheduled and changed, and the state guidelines from which the court works.

Please mark your calendars for the Michigan CASA Conference 2016. The conference will held Nov. 11-12, 2016 at the Radisson Hotel Lansing at the Capitol. I would love to have a large group attend to represent Grand Traverse County CASA.

**Be part of it!** Volunteer Services is in the beginning stages of planning the next Volunteer Recognition Event, taking place Spring 2017.

Volunteers are needed to assist in the planning, organizing, set-up, take down and everything else that goes into making this another successful event for Volunteer Services.

If you are interested in being a part of this committee we will be having a meeting in early Fall to begin preparations and brain storm ideas. Please contact Lindsey and she will add you to the contact list.





**VOLUNTEERS IN  
PREVENTION/PROBATION**

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY PROBATE COURT

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

MELANIE D. STANTON, PROBATE & FAMILY COURT JUDGE

280 Washington St., Suite B 150, Traverse City, MI 49684

231-922-4827

Or Current Resident

### **Learning Partners**

1st Tuesday-4:00-5:00 pm

**Tuesday, July 5th, 2016 (no meeting)**

**Tuesday, August 2nd, 2016**



### **CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate)**

3rd Tuesday- 4:00-6:00 pm

**Tuesday, July 19th, 2016 (no meeting)**

**Tuesday, August 16th, 2016**



**\*All meetings are held at the Volunteer Services office unless otherwise mentioned.**